



OFFICE OF DELTA COUNTY SHERIFF

GARY A. BALLWEG, SHERIFF • EDWARD L. OSWALD, UNDERSHERIFF

To whom it may concern:

The purpose of this letter is to show our support for the proposed amendment to the Michigan Vehicle Code regarding the use of warning lights by volunteer members of local emergency management units.


Outdoor recreation is a vital economic component for Delta County. Many of our local residents, as well as visitors from around the country enjoy all that Delta County has to offer with its natural resources. The Delta County Search and Rescue Team (DCSAR) plays a vital role in keeping these outdoorsmen safe, however their ability to be most effective is hampered by their inability to use warning lights when responding to a call for help.


If you have ever visited Delta County during the winter months, you have seen Little Bay de Noc littered with hundreds of ice fishing shanties and vehicles. As you can imagine, this form of outdoor recreation can be dangerous and often deadly. The members of DCSAR are certified in ice rescue techniques and are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In an ice rescue situation, the difference between life and death can be minutes, so it's important that our resources are able to respond efficiently. We feel that the use of warning lights will help, and possibly even save a life at some point in the future.

We understand that with the use of warning lights by volunteers comes added responsibility. You can rest assured that before any of our volunteers are allowed to use these warning lights, they will go through training. We will make sure that they know how and when these lights should be used to keep our roads as safe as possible.

Thank you for considering this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,


Gary Ballweg, Delta County Sheriff


Edward Oswald, Delta County Undersheriff